

Appl. No. 09/440,434
Amdt. dated September 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 11, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claim 17 without prejudice and amend claims 9-16, 19-23, 25, and 26 as follows:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled).

9. (currently amended): A ~~storage allocation~~ media program delivery method comprising: receiving a request for media program storage services, from a client among a plurality of clients, for recording and delivery of media programs from a media program provider having access to sources of media and a plurality of media delivery systems having a scheduler for recording and playback control of media programs;

determining a client storage capacity in storage remote to the client based on a grade of service selected by the client, wherein the grade of service comprises a duration of total media program time and a media program delivery data rate;

allocating storing a pre the determined amount of client available storage capacity as a storage capacity parameter in a client file to the client in response to the request for media program storage services, the predetermined amount of client available storage capacity allocated to the client being determined by a request for storage capacity from the client ; and

assigning a cost of the media program services by the media program provider to the client based on the allocated amount of storage; client's selected grade of service.

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10. (currently amended): A The media program delivery method in accordance with of
claim 9 further comprising:
receiving a request to record an identified media program from the client;
determining whether the storage capacity required by the identified media program
exceeds the client storage capacity;
selecting the identified media program from a media source selected by the client or from
a best available media source;
recording the identified media program in a media format selected by the client in a
media storage facility shared for media program services if the identified media program does not
exceed the client storage capacity; and
notifying the client of the amount of remaining client available storage time if the
identified media program exceeds the client storage capacity and this remaining client available
storage time is insufficient to record the identified media program.

11. (currently amended): A The media program delivery method in accordance with of
claim 10 further comprising offering additional storage capacity time to the client if the identified
media program exceeds the client storage capacity.

12. (currently amended): A The media program delivery method in accordance with of
claim 9 comprising:
receiving a request for purchase of additional storage time from the client and in response
thereto, allocating additional increasing the storage capacity parameter in to the client file to
reflect the purchase of additional storage time.

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13. (currently amended): A The media program delivery method in accordance with of
claim 9-10 further comprising:

delivering the stored-identified media program from storage to the client in the client
selected media format and increasing the storage allocated to the client by an amount
substantially equal to the storage used to store the stored media program upon the client
requesting delivery of the identified media program.

14. (currently amended): A storage allocation method comprising:

receiving a request from a client for media program storage services from a media
program provider from a client;

determining a client storage capacity allocation based on a client's selected grade of
service, wherein the grade of service comprises a duration of total media program time and a
media program delivery data rate;

allocating in a selected media storage facility shared for media program services a pre-
determined amount of the client's available storage capacity allocation to the client in response
to use the request for media program storage services;

receiving a request for storage recording of an identified media program from the client;

determining whether the storage capacity required by the identified media program
exceeds the client storage capacity allocation;

storing the identified media program for a predetermined time period if the identified
media program does not exceed the client storage capacity allocation and determining an amount
of client available storage capacity remaining after the storage of the identified program; and

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~~automatically reclaiming establishing an expiration date for the media program stored and wherein the amount of storage capacity used to store the identified media program is made reusable at the end of the predetermined time period, wherein the reclaimed storage capacity may be reused by the client at the passing of the expiration date.~~

15. (currently amended): A The storage allocation method in accordance with of claim 14 further comprising:

notifying the client of ~~the an~~ expiration date before the ~~passing end~~ of the ~~expiration date~~ predetermined time period.

16. (currently amended): A The storage allocation method in accordance with of claim 15 further comprising:

offering the client an additional time period of storage for the ~~stored identified~~ multimedia program.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled).

19. (currently amended): A The media program delivery method in accordance with of claim 9 10 further comprising:

determining the amount of storage time needed to store ~~[[a]]~~ the identified media program ~~identified by the client~~ and denying storage when the needed amount of storage time exceeds the amount of client ~~available~~ storage capacity.

20. (currently amended): A The media program delivery method in accordance with of claim 19 further comprising:

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offering additional storage ~~capacity~~time to the client.

21. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The media program delivery method is accordance with of
claim 9-10 wherein the identified media program is stored in a plurality of media program storage
locations and the media program delivery method comprises notifying an allocator function of
the total amount of storage capacity in use to store media programs requested by the client.

22. (currently amended): A media program storage system comprising:

a plurality of storage units for receiving and storing a predetermined plurality of requested
~~media program programs signals~~ and for supporting a plurality of grades of service, said storage
units being located in different geographic locations and each grade of service of the plurality of
grades of service comprising a duration of total media program time and a media program
delivery data rate;

a network accessible server for receiving requests for storage of ~~identified~~ the requested
~~media program programs signals~~ from network connected clients and in response to a request
from a client for a media program notifying operates to notify one of the plurality of storage units
to receive and store the ~~identified~~ requested media program ~~signal~~ in a client selected format
wherein the network accessible server stores a value identifying an amount of storage available to
the client[[]] and

~~the storage units comprise apparatus responsive to the notifications from the network~~
~~accessible server for receiving and storing the identified program and the network accessible~~
~~server for notifying operates to notify~~ the requesting client of a network address at which to
retrieve the stored media program.

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23. (currently amended): A The media program storage system ~~in accordance with~~ of
claim 22 further comprising:

apparatus responsive to a delivery request from the client via the network for delivering
the stored media program in the client selected format to the client via the network.

24. (cancelled).

25. (currently amended): A The media program storage system ~~in accordance with~~ of
claim 22 wherein the network accessible server stores a preferred listing of media programs for
access by the client.

26. (currently amended): A The media program storage system ~~in accordance with~~ of
claim 25 wherein the network accessible server stores listings of media programs in addition to
the preferred listing.

Claims 27-33 (cancelled).